

Target 2:	By 2010, nine out of 10 graduates of North Carolina's public schools, community colleges, colleges and universities will be rated satisfactory or better by their employers.
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Three North Carolina Surveys

1. The Workforce Development Education Section of the Department of Public Instruction annually conducts a survey of employers to assess the job skills and satisfaction of employers of high school graduates who have completed vocational/technical education training. The 1999 survey on the previous year's high school graduates found that on average 71% of the graduates rated above average compared to 70% the year before. The vocational students rated four percent higher than those workers of the same age who have not completed the vocational training. (Source: Department of Public Instruction)
2. The University of North Carolina System is surveying employers to find out satisfaction rates. Results from the 1999 employer survey indicate that 94-99% would hire another graduate. (Source: UNC General Administration)
3. The Community College System is collecting data on employer satisfaction as one of its a critical success factors in order to reward colleges exceeding the System performance standard. The performance standard for employer satisfaction is 85% of employers surveyed to report satisfaction with the skills of employees trained or educated in a community college.

National ranking

- In *Measuring Up 2000: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education*, employer satisfaction was not as high as measured by North Carolina. That report, based on 1997 Census survey and analysis by the Institute for Research in Higher Education, indicated that only 43% of the employers in North Carolina were satisfied with how colleges and universities in the state are preparing students for work, compared to the U.S. average of 46%.³³⁷ *The disparity in the studies is another reason North Carolina needs to develop a better system for surveying employers.*

Basic skills and employer satisfaction are important steps to achieving a more competitive economy. North Carolina workers also need more technical knowledge.